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MOTION BY SUPERVISORS DON KNABE AND MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

Reducing recidivism is a key goal of the County to effectively serve those youth and emerging adults who are determined to be at high risk of ongoing involvement in violent, gang-related crime and thus at high risk of re-incarceration upon release from county jail or state prison. Many of these individuals have been victims of violence and have been continually exposed to violence in their communities and within their own families. Most have spent time in the County's foster care system and juvenile detention facilities, and they have significant substance abuse issues and mental health disorders ranging from post-traumatic stress to depression. In other words, the circumstances they are in practically set the stage for a perpetual cycle of jail, mental illness and anti-social behavior.

The County's experts have determined that the most successful programs help at-risk individuals avoid reoffending for at least three years from the point at which we begin to address their needs. To do so, we must ensure they safely transition away from perpetual cycles of violence they experience into more productive ways of life. There are promising service models out there that address this effectively. For example, a report from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) that studied Homeboy Industries' service model verified that a holistic approach incorporating a range of services in a one-stop, easily accessible setting yields good outcomes for reducing recidivism and reoffending.

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The conundrum here is that the best practices identified in the UCLA study do not neatly fit into the standard funding streams that are utilized to serve this population. For example, a successful practice that was highlighted in the UCLA study is to create opportunities for these individuals to seek out help on their own, as opposed to a more traditional referral-based model which is easier to track and fund. I believe that the County should identify funding and release a competitive bid for services that would allow us to invest in treatment models patterned after best practices, such as those identified by the UCLA study, as well as any other academically-verified service models known to us.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Chief Executive Officer work in collaboration with the Probation Department and County Counsel to identify an appropriate level of multi-year funding and develop a competitive bidding process that utilizes the elements of research based, best practice models to address behavior change in previously incarcerated men, women and high-risk youth seeking reentry services, and report back in 45 days.

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